

# Targeting pan-tumor antigens to activating Fcγ receptors generates a novel dendritic cell tumor vaccine

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## Abstract

**Objective:** Therapeutic tumor vaccines are eagerly awaited in clinic by patients with high expectations; however, very few clinically successful tumor vaccine has been developed thus far, and there remains no consensus on the generation of tumor vaccines. We hypothesized that targeted delivery of pan-tumor antigens instead of individual tumor-associated antigen (TAA) to dendritic cells via the activating receptor endocytic pathway (AREP) would provide an alternative avenue to develop potent personalized tumor vaccines.

**Methods:** We first prepared biotin-tagged tumor antigens (B-TAGs) with mouse CT26. WT colorectal cancer cells by exploiting metabolic glycan labeling and bioorthogonal reaction methods; then, we prepared a bifunctional fusion protein containing streptavidin and a mouse IgG2a Fc fragment (SA-Fc), in which streptavidin was used for conjugation with B-TAGs, and Fc for mediating the interaction with the Fc $\gamma$  receptor. Finally, conjugates (Fc-TAGs) of SA-Fc with B-TAGs were prepared based on affinity-guided noncovalent reaction. The phenotype of Fc-TAGs pulsed bone marrow-derived dendritic cells (BMDCs) was examined by flow cytometry. The therapeutic effects of Fc-TAGs pulsed BMDCs were observed in an established mouse CT26. WT colorectal cancer model.

**Results:** The prepared B-TAGs covers almost all glycosylated tumor antigens. SA-Fc fusion protein exhibits biotin-binding activity as a homodimer. SA-Fc can effectively conjugate with B-TAG at a mixing ratio of 1:96 (w/w). Data of flow cytometry revealed that on Fc-TAGs pulsed BMDCs, the expression levels of surface molecules, such as CD80 and MHC II, were greatly increased. In the established murine colorectal cancer model, combination treatments with Fc-TAGs pulsed BMDCs and PD-1 blockade achieved significant therapeutic effects.

**Limitations:** The strategy we proposed for the preparation of personalized tumor vaccine requires that the tumor be surgically removed from the patient. The rationality and validity of this strategy need to be proven by more preclinical investigations.

**Conclusions:** The novel strategy we proposed circumvents the necessities for neoantigen prediction and provides an alternative pathway to establish a flexible system for the preparation of personalized dendritic cell tumor vaccines. In the setting of checkpoint blockade-based immunotherapy, a novel DCV would improve antitumor immunity and benefit the eradication of tumor residues within the body of the cancer patients.

**Keywords:** [Dendritic cell tumor vaccine]; [Fc $\gamma$  receptor]; [Metabolic labeling]; [Bioorthogonal reaction]; [Colorectal cancer].

## 1. Introduction

For several decades, dendritic cell tumor vaccines (DCVs) have been a tantalizing strategy for the eradication of malignancies. Many clinical trials have been conducted in the hope of benefiting from such an approach, and a myriad of data has established the safety, immunogenicity and relevance to clinical outcomes (1-4).

Currently, it is widely accepted that cancer is a personalized disease with high heterogeneity; hence, DCVs for cancer patients should also be personalized (5-8). To date, there remains no consensus on the generation of DCVs, and the fact that there are few accepted successful DCVs in clinic highlights the need to refine the strategy for making DCVs and to reconsider the treatment regimen of immunotherapy.

Previously, Gil M. et al. generated a recombinant protein containing the IgG2a Fc fragment and a mimotope of the GD2 ganglioside to deliver the antigenic cassette to the activating Fc $\gamma$  receptors on DCs, and thus, the DCV resulted in antitumor immune responses (9). Kato Y. et al. and Li J. et al. showed that targeting antigen to Clec9a (DC NK lectin group receptor-1) in animal models induced cellular and humoral immune responses (10, 11). In addition, studies using DEC205-targeting antibodies have successfully induced immune responses to cancer antigens as well as pathogen antigens (12, 13). These encouraging findings, although focused on the individual tumor-associated antigen (TAA), strongly suggested that targeting antigens to DCs could be a potential strategy for DC-based vaccination.

Moreover, Wendy W. J. Unger et al. demonstrated that sialic acid-modified tumor antigens (Sia-TAgS) impose tolerance via inhibition of T-cell proliferation and de novo induction of regulatory T cells. The interaction of sialic acid capped on the glycan of glycosylated TAg with Siglecs (sialic acid-binding Ig-type lectins) mediates the uptake of TAg by DCs and thus endows DCs with regulatory properties (14). Presumably, preventing TAgS from entering DCs via the Siglec pathway would improve the antitumor immunity of the body.

Here, we aimed to deliver TAgS, as much as possible, to DCs via the activating receptor-mediated endocytic pathway (AREP) and to avoid the entrance of TAgS by the Siglec pathway. To our knowledge, no such attempt has been made before.

We addressed this issue on the basis of the following rationale: the affinity-guided noncovalent interaction of streptavidin (SA) with biotin, metabolic glycan labeling and bioorthogonal reaction (click reaction) (15-18). We firstly prepared a recombinant protein SA-Fc that contained SA and a mouse IgG2aFc (Fc) fragment; and then we prepared biotin-tagged TAgS (B-TAgS), on which biotin was labeled at the terminal end of the glycan; finally, the conjugates of SA-Fc and B-TAgS (Fc-TAgS) were exploited as loading antigens to make the DCV.

In a combination immunotherapy with PD-1 blockade, the DCV we prepared conferred significant therapeutic efficacy on murine colorectal cancer, demonstrating that the strategy we proposed might be applied for making personalized DCVs, especially for those patients whose tumor can be surgically removed.

## **2. Methodology (Design/Approach)**

The objectives of this study were to prepare a new dendritic cell tumor vaccine by delivering tumor antigens to DCs via the activating Fc receptor endocytic pathway and to evaluate the therapeutic potency of this new DCV in an implanted animal tumor model.

First, we made the following preparations: 1. Based on metabolic glycan labeling and click chemistry strategies, we prepared biotin-tagged tumor antigens (B-TAGs) by tagging biotin with sialic acid residue displayed at the nonreducing termini of cell-surface glycans on mouse CT26. WT cells; 2. We prepared a bifunctional linker-bridged fusion protein containing streptavidin (SA) and mouse IgG2a Fc (Fc) segments; 3. Since the conjugates of B-TAGs with SA-Fc were to be used as a source of antigens for DC loading, we analyzed the conjugating ratio of these two reagents. 4. We examined the phenotype of bone marrow-derived dendritic cells pulsed by the conjugates, SA-Fc and B-TAG.

Next, we established a murine CT26. WT colorectal cancer model by injecting tumor cells subcutaneously into one flank of each mouse. One week after tumor inoculation, when the tumor size became measurable, the tumor-bearing mice were equally randomized to different groups (n=5 per group).

Our immunotherapy plan consisted of two parts: monotherapy with the DCV and combination therapy with the DCV plus anti-PD-1 antibody. Unaltered tumor antigens were used to prepare control DCVs. The DCV was administered to mice subcutaneously by peritumoral injection, while anti-PD-1 antibody was given to mice by intraperitoneal injection. Mice in different groups received the respective treatments according to the same time schedule, and the dynamics of tumor growth were individually recorded. To evaluate whether our immunotherapy impacted antitumor immunity in the tested animals, we examined the subsets of lymphocytes in the peripheral blood and spleens of the animals.

For each experiment, animal numbers, statistical tests, and numbers of experimental replicates are described in the figure legends. Data include all outliers. The researchers were not blinded during the data collection or analysis.

## **3. Results**

### ***SA-Fc fusion protein exhibited biotin-binding activity as a homodimer***

To deliver TAGs to DCs via AREP, we have to prepare a complex guider that can both interact with a specific activating receptor on DCs and can conjugate with pretagged tumor antigens as well. For this reason, we chose mouse FcγIIa receptor, a confirmed activating endocytic receptor, as the

“door” for the entrance of tumor antigens into DCs. Meanwhile, we chose streptavidin, which is known to possess potent capacity for biotin-binding, as an ideal component for conjugation with B-TAGs. Therefore, we constructed a recombinant pFUSE plasmid containing the coding sequence of the mouse IgG2aFc segment, streptavidin, and a flexible linker sequence between the two (Fig. 1 A, upper and left, and Fig. S1), and expressed the fusion protein in a eukaryotic expression system. The results of Coomassie blue staining showed that the molecular weight of nonreduced protein was almost twice that of the reduced protein, indicating that the fusion protein existed as a homodimer in the native state (Fig. 1 A, middle). The Fc component within the protein was characterized by Western blotting, as shown in Fig. 1 A (right). Furthermore, data of fluorescence microscopy demonstrated that the fusion protein could effectively bind with biotin (Fig. 1 B). These results indicated that the protein obtained can meet the requirements of our experiments.

#### ***SA-Fc can effectively conjugate with B-TAG***

Next, we planned to add a biotin label at the terminal end of the glycan that was modified on glycosylated TAG (18). A two-step strategy was applied for the preparation of B-TAGs (Fig. 2 A). TAG would be first labeled with azido-sugar by unnatural sugar metabolic incorporation, and azido-TAG would be further labeled with biotin by a click reaction.

We used Ac4ManNAz as a precursor for selective replacement of sialic acid residue (Sia) at the terminal end of the glycan on TAG with azido-sialic acid (azido-Sia). To ensure the efficiency of metabolic incorporation, we dynamically investigated the expression of azido-Sia on CT26. WT cells with DIBO-FITC under different conditions. We found that the FITC signal was enhanced with the increasing Ac4ManNAz concentration in culture medium, but the number of positive cells was reduced when the Ac4ManNAz concentration reached 3 mM (Fig. 2 B), suggesting that the proliferation of the cells might be affected by treatment with Ac4ManNAz at high concentration; flow cytometry analysis revealed that the optimal time duration for incorporation was approximately 16 h (Fig. 2 C). In addition, fluorescence microscopy assay also identified the expression of azido-sugar on CT26.WT cells (Fig. 2 D). Based on the observations above, we decided to adopt the following protocol for the subsequent preparations: the tumor cells were first preconditioned for 24 h with 0.5 mM Ac4ManNAz, followed by another 24 h culture with 2.0 mM Ac4ManNAz.

To obtain B-TAGs, we used thermally denatured cell lysates of CT26. WT labeled with azido-sugars reacts with DIBO-biotin. The formation of B-TAGs was identified by Western blot analysis (Fig. 2 E). Furthermore, we examined several representative cell surface glycoproteins within the B-TAG precipitates pooled by streptavidin resins, including CCR6, E-cadherin and IGF-1R. The results showed that the amounts of the detected glycoproteins within the B-TAGs sample were almost equal to those within the control TAGs sample (Fig. 2 F). This implies that the methodology we exploited could result in selective labeling of biotin on most of the glycosylated TAGs.

For the preparation of Fc-TAg conjugates, we investigated the optimal mixing ratio of SA-Fc to B-TAGs by using immunoprecipitation and Western blot assays. Our results suggested that the ratio of 1:96 (SA-Fc:B-TAGs, w/w) should be the best, since under such a mixing ratio, the inputted B-TAGs were maximally conjugated by SA-Fc, while the remaining unconjugated B-TAGs were less than 1/8 of the input (Fig. 2 G).

Up to this point, we have addressed the key steps concerning the preparation of antigens for further investigations.

### ***DCs pulsed by Fc-TAGs displayed a phenotype that favors the immune response***

Dendritic cells are the most potent antigen-presenting cells (APCs) responsible for priming of the immune response. It is believed that a specific adaptive immune response is determined by three kinds of signals: the interaction between antigen peptide presented by major histocompatibility complex (MHC) on APCs and the corresponding T cell receptor (TCR) expressed on T cells provides the first kind of signal; the interaction between costimulatory molecules on APCs and their corresponding ligands on T cells provides the second kind of signal; and the participation of some cytokines provides the third kind of signal (19). These signals could be generally assessed by detecting the levels of the associated molecules or the secretion of cytokines. Here, by flow cytometry, we found that the expression profile of immune-associated molecules on the DCs pulsed by Fc-TAGs is quite different from that on DCs pulsed with unaltered TAGs. In comparison with nonstimulated DCs, the former showed significantly increased expression of CD80 and MHC II, while CD86, CD64, CCR7 and MHC I remained unchanged; in contrast, the latter showed significantly increased expression of CD64 and CCR7, and significantly decreased expression of CD86, and unchanged MHC I, MHC II and CD80. These results indicated that the DCs pulsed by Fc-TAGs might evoke effective antitumor responses when provided as a vaccine.

### ***Combination therapy with Fc-TAG DCs and PD-1 blockade achieved potent therapeutic effects in a murine colorectal cancer model***

In view of the phenotype of Fc-TAg pulsed DCs (Fc-TAg DCs), we thought that such mature cells might act as a novel vaccine to induce antitumor immune responses. To test this idea, we inoculated CT26. WT cells on BALB/c mice to establish a tumor model. When the tumors became measureable, the tumor-bearing mice were randomized to six groups. Three of the groups received monotherapy with PBS, TAG pulsed DCs (TAG DCs) or Fc-TAg DCs; the other three groups received combination therapy with PBS + anti-PD-1 antibody, TAG DCs + anti-PD-1 antibody or Fc-TAg DCs + anti-PD-1 antibody (the schedule of treatments is shown in Fig. 4 A). The animals were monitored for tumor growth by calculating the tumor volume every three days.

The tumors of the mice in all monotherapy groups grew progressively (Fig. 4 B, upper three rows), and statistical analysis of the tumor volume at day 29 showed that there were no significant differences between these three groups (Fig. 4 C, left).

In PBS + anti-PD-1 antibody treatment group, complete regression of tumors occurred in only one mouse, and the tumors of the other four mice continued to grow in a manner similar to those of mice in the monotherapy groups. TAg DCs + anti-PD-1 antibody treatment also showed complete regression of tumors in one mouse within the group, and the growth of tumor in the other four mice was slightly delayed; however, the trend of expanding tumor growth was not significantly altered. It was interesting and noteworthy that Fc-TAg DCs + anti-PD-1 antibody treatment caused complete regression of tumors in three mice within the group; and the tumor growth of the other two mice was remarkably delayed (Fig. 4 B, lower three rows). Results from the statistical analysis of the tumor volume at day 29 showed that there were significant differences between the combination therapy groups (Fig. 4 C, right).

***Combination therapy with Fc-TAg DCs and PD-1 blockade restored the balance of circulating Tregs in tumor-bearing mice***

Adequate and sufficient antitumor immune responses underlie the therapeutic effects of immunotherapy. Therefore, we analyzed and compared the differences in lymphocyte subsets in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and spleens of each group. The results of PBMC analysis showed that the established CT26. WT colorectal cancer in mice had no significant effect on the general proportions of CD3+CD4+ or CD3+CD8+ T cells (Fig. S4. C and D). However, the percentages of CD4+CD25+ and CD4+Foxp3+ subpopulations were reduced significantly (Fig. 4. D), manifesting the imbalance of regulatory T cells (Tregs) in circulation. Fc-TAg DCs + anti-PD-1 treatment greatly prevented the decline in circulating Tregs, which was likely correlated with the regression of tumors. In contrast, the other treatments, whether monotherapy or combined therapy, failed to do so. In the spleen, there was no significant difference in lymphocyte populations detected between the experimental groups (Fig. S4).

#### **4. Discussion**

We have developed a novel strategy to make personalized DCVs for cancer immunotherapy. Compared with DCVs prepared by conventional methods, the novel DCV possesses more potential to induce antitumor immunity within the body. The novel DCV takes its advantages in the presence of immune checkpoint inhibitor, such as anti-PD-1 antibodies. It is easy to make such DCVs, and it is not necessary to predict specific tumor antigens, which was usually expensive, time-consuming and laborious (20, 21). However, this preparation requires that the tumor be surgically removed from the patient.

In this study, we chose the whole tumor cells as the source to prepare antigens for DC loading, because such performance would cover a wide spectrum of antigens, including unknown neoantigens, together with damage-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs) derived from tumor cells (22-24). By exploiting metabolic incorporation and click reaction methodologies, we prepared B-TAGs. The sialic

acid that originally capped on TAg mediates the internalization of TAg by DC via Siglec pathway and leads to the occurrence of the inhibitory immune responses (14). The modification by our approach would most likely drive the internalization of TAg through the pathway we set, and the inhibitory effects induced by sialic acid should be largely abolished.

As we know, the candidate AREP for the delivery of tumor antigens include Fc receptors (Fc $\gamma$  receptor type I or CD64 and Fc $\gamma$  receptor type II or CD32), integrins ( $\alpha\text{v}\beta$  or  $\alpha\text{v}\beta 5$ ), Clec9A, C-type lectin receptors (CLRs, including mannose receptor and DEC205), apoptotic cell receptors, and scavenger receptors (25-28). Here, we selected mouse Fc $\gamma$ IIa receptor as the target to prove our hypothesis. Therefore, we prepared bifunctional SA-Fc that can both act as a ligand for the Fc $\gamma$  receptor and conjugate with B-TAg as well. Of course, there are other and more direct options for the conjugation of Fc with tumor antigens; for example, azido tumor antigens covalently interact with alkyne-modified Fc or other similar ligands. Such investigations are ongoing in our lab.

The effects of our prepared DCV based on the present strategy was proven in a murine colorectal cancer model. We found that treatment with Fc-TAg DCs plus PD-1 blockade caused complete regression of tumors in three of the five tested mice, while the growth of tumors in the other two mice in the same group was significantly delayed. Interestingly, the body coat on the surface of the tumor remained intact, and no ulceration occurred. In contrast, tumors in all mice of the monotherapy groups and in most mice of the other two combination therapy groups exhibit expansive growth, and all tumors present a central crater-like ulceration. These results suggested that the novel DCV has an advantage in the presence of checkpoint inhibitors, but not alone.

In the present colorectal cancer model, the established tumor obviously change the distribution of the lymphocyte populations. In peripheral blood, the proportion of CD4+CD25+ or CD4+Foxp3+ subpopulations (generally taken as regulatory T cells, Tregs) was significantly lower than that of the normal population, but the proportion of CD3+CD4+ or CD3+CD8+ subpopulations was not apparently disturbed. These data highlight the importance of Treg imbalance in the pathology of colorectal cancer (29, 30). Although the role of Tregs in cancer remains a topic of controversy (31, 32), it is clear that in the present context, the loss of Tregs leads to anergy in tumor surveillance of the immune system. It may be interesting to understand the mechanism underlying the decline in Tregs, even if it is beyond the scope of this study.

In the setting of combination therapy with PD-1 blockade, Fc-TAg DCs successfully prevented the loss of Tregs, whereas treatment with TAg DCs only partly restore Tregs. In contrast, neither TAg DCs nor PD-1 blockade alone restored Treg balance in tumor-bearing mice. It should be pointed out that Fc-TAg DCs alone also failed to prevent the decline of Tregs. In terms of its mechanism, it has been shown that PD-1 blockade could abrogate the inhibition of immune cells caused by PD-1/PD-L1 interaction, and thus uninhibited cells would perform their principle functions. A possible explanation for the therapeutic failure of PD-1 blockade alone in the current setting is the lack of effector immune



cells in tumor bearing mice, which is probably due to the incapability of dendritic cells to prime protective antitumor responses or even the opposite. In addition, the failure of monotherapy with TAg DCs or Fc-TAg DCs may partly be attributed to the involvement of PD-1/PD-L1 interaction, because when an anti-PD-1 antibody was applied, both DCVs manifested therapeutic effects, especially Fc-TAg DCs. Thus, based on our findings, we presume that restoration of Tregs (or prevention of Treg decline) might contribute to the therapeutic efficacy of the combination immunotherapy on colorectal cancer, and it could only be achieved under the setting of combination immunotherapy. Nevertheless, further investigations need to be performed to elucidate the underlying mechanism of successive treatment.

Although the novel strategy we proposed is preliminarily verified in a murine colorectal cancer model, and the rationality and validity of this strategy need to be proven by more preclinical investigations, our roadmap for the preparation of DC-based tumor vaccines may be useful in making personalized DCVs. Most likely, in view of tumor heterogeneity, the personalized DCV produced by our method may result in different phenotypes regarding the molecular pattern of immune cells and cytokine profile within the body fluid or the tumor microenvironment (TME), but in the setting of checkpoint blockade-based immunotherapy, a novel DCV would improve antitumor immunity and benefit the eradication of tumor residues within the body of the cancer patients.

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## Figure Legends

**Fig. 1. Expression and characterization of the bifunctional protein of interest.** (A) The proteins of interest contains two functional domains, streptavidin and the mouse IgG2a Fc fragment, which were bridged by a linker (top). The expression plasmid that harbored the coding gene was constructed by using pFUSE (left). The protein expressed in Expi293 cells was purified with Protein A/G resins. The reduced and nonreduced protein samples were dissolved by SDS-PAGE, followed by Coomassie blue staining (middle). The Fc domain within the protein was characterized by Western blot analysis (right). (B) Observation of the binding of FITC-biotin with the protein of interest on Protein A/G resins by fluorescence microscopy (magnification,  $\times 200$ ).

**Fig. 2. Preparation and characterization of Fc-TAg conjugates.** (A) Schematic of the strategy for the preparation of Fc-TAg conjugates. (B) Dynamic observation of metabolic glycan labeling on CT26. WT. Cells were either cultured with Ac4ManNAz at the indicated concentration for 24 h (left) or cultured with 3 mM Ac4ManNAz for the indicated time (right). After labeling with DIBO-FITC, the percentage of positive cells and the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) were quantified by flow cytometry. (C) CT26. WT cells were cultured on a coverslip with Ac4ManNAz or sialic acid (Sia) for 24 h, followed by DIBO-FITC labeling and observation with fluorescence microscopy (magnification,  $\times 400$ ). (D) Characterization of biotin-labeled TAg (B-TAg). Thermal-denatured cell lysates from azido-sugar-labeled CT26. WT was reacted with DIBO-biotin, and after ethanol sedimentation, the sample was subjected to Western blotting using an antibiotin antibody. Nontreated cell lysates of CT26. WT were taken as the control (TAg). (E) Detection of representative glycosylated antigens by Western blotting. The indicated antigens within samples from streptavidin resin-pooled precipitates or from nontreated cell lysates from CT26. WT were examined with respective antibodies. The inputs were assessed by anti- $\beta$ -actin antibody. (F) Analysis of the optimal mixing ratio of SA-Fc and B-TAg. SA-Fc and B-TAg were mixed at ratios of 1:96, 1:48, 1:24 or 1:12 (w/w), and the formed conjugates were pooled with protein A/G resins. B-TAg within the precipitates and supernatants were examined by Western blotting. The inputs of SA-Fc were assessed by anti-streptavidin antibody.

**Fig. 3. DCs pulsed with Fc-TAg displayed a phenotype that favors the immune response.** (A) Schematic of the process for the isolation, activation, antigen loading and maturation of DCs. (B) Detection and analysis of cell surface markers on DCs by flow cytometry. Aliquots of cells from either TAg-pulsed DCs or Fc-TAg-pulsed DCs or nonpulsed DCs (normal control) were stained with the respective antibodies. Flow cytometry histograms of the tested DCs were displayed in the left four columns, and the results of statistical analysis of the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of positive

cells are displayed as bar graphs in the right column. Data shown are representative of three independent experiments. \*,  $p < 0.05$ ; ns, not significant.

**Fig. 4. Combination immunotherapy with Fc-TAg-pulsed DCs and PD-1 blockade achieved significant therapeutic efficacy in a murine colorectal cancer model.** (A) Schematic of the time and treatment schedules for animal experiments. (B) Morphology and dynamic tumor growth of the tested mice. The photos were taken on day 29 and were arranged according to the tumor size. The number in each photo represents the random number of each mouse in the corresponding group (left columns). The volume of the tumors was measured and calculated every three days. Tumor growth curves of mice in the same group are shown in one panel (right column). (C) Comparison of tumor volumes between the monotherapy groups (left) or the combination therapy groups (right). Tumor volume data were collected from five mice in each group on day 29. Statistical analyses were calculated by one-way ANOVA with a Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test. \* $p < 0.05$ , vs. TAg DC+anti-PD-1 group. (D) Flow cytometry analysis of lymphocyte subsets in the peripheral blood from tested mice. Lymphocytes from the peripheral blood of mice (day 50,  $n=4$  per group) were isolated by Mouse Lymphocyte Separation Solution. The cell aliquots were subjected to staining with the corresponding antibodies, followed by detection with flow cytometry. Statistical analyses were calculated by one-way ANOVA with a Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test. \* $p < 0.05$ , vs. PBS group (CD4+CD25+ subset) or vs. TAg DC+anti-PD-1 group (CD4+Foxp3+ subset).

#### Supplementary Figure Legends

**Fig. S1. The sequence of the gene that encodes streptavidin-mIgG2aFc (SA-Fc) fusion protein.** The illustrated sequence contains four domains, including the sequence encoding an interleukin-2 (IL-2) signal peptide, streptavidin, a linker and a mouse IgG2aFc fragment. The domains are marked by different colors as indicated.

**Fig. S2. The structures of the synthetic reagents.** (A) Ac4ManNAz (tetraacetylated N-Azidoacetyl-D-Mannosamine). (B) DIBO-FITC (Dibenzocyclooctynol Fluorescein Isothiocyanate). (C) DIBO-biotin (Dibenzocyclooctynol-biotin).

**Fig. S3. Flow cytometry analysis of lymphocyte subsets in the peripheral blood from tested mice.** Lymphocytes from the peripheral blood of mice (day 50) were isolated with Mouse Lymphocyte Separation Solution. The cell aliquots were subjected to staining with the corresponding antibodies, followed by detection with flow cytometry. The data shown in the left panels of A, B, C and D

represent the percentage of double-stained cells in the corresponding groups (n=4 per group). Results of one-way ANOVA with a Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test are shown in the tables on the right. \*p < 0.05, \*\*p<0.01 \*\*\*p<0.001.

**Fig. S4. Flow cytometry analysis of lymphocyte subsets in spleens from tested mice.** Spleens from mice (day 50) were first mechanically processed into single-cell suspensions, and then the lymphocytes within the suspensions were isolated by Mouse Lymphocyte Separation Solution. The cell aliquots were subjected to staining with the corresponding antibodies, followed by detection with flow cytometry. The data shown in the left panels of **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** represent the percentage of double-stained cells in the corresponding groups (n=4 per group). The results of one-way ANOVA with a Newman-Keuls multiple comparison test are shown in the tables on the right. \*p < 0.05, \*\*p<0.01 \*\*\*p<0.001.

Figure 1.

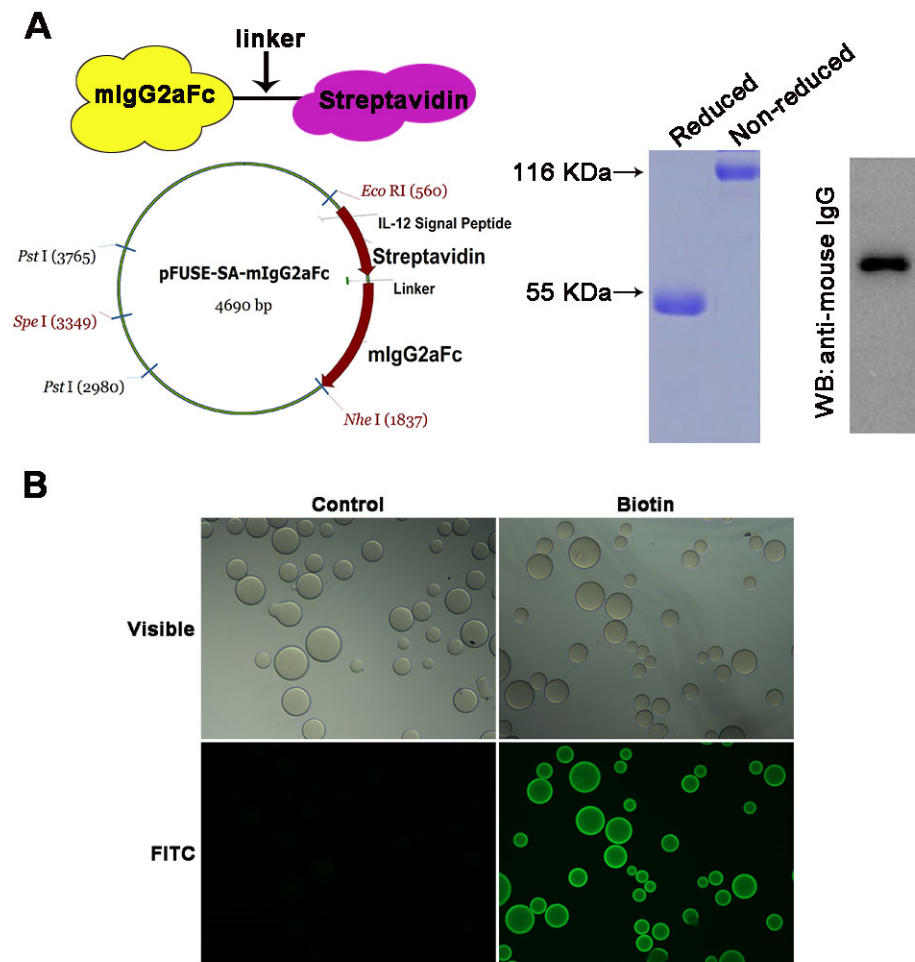




Figure 2.

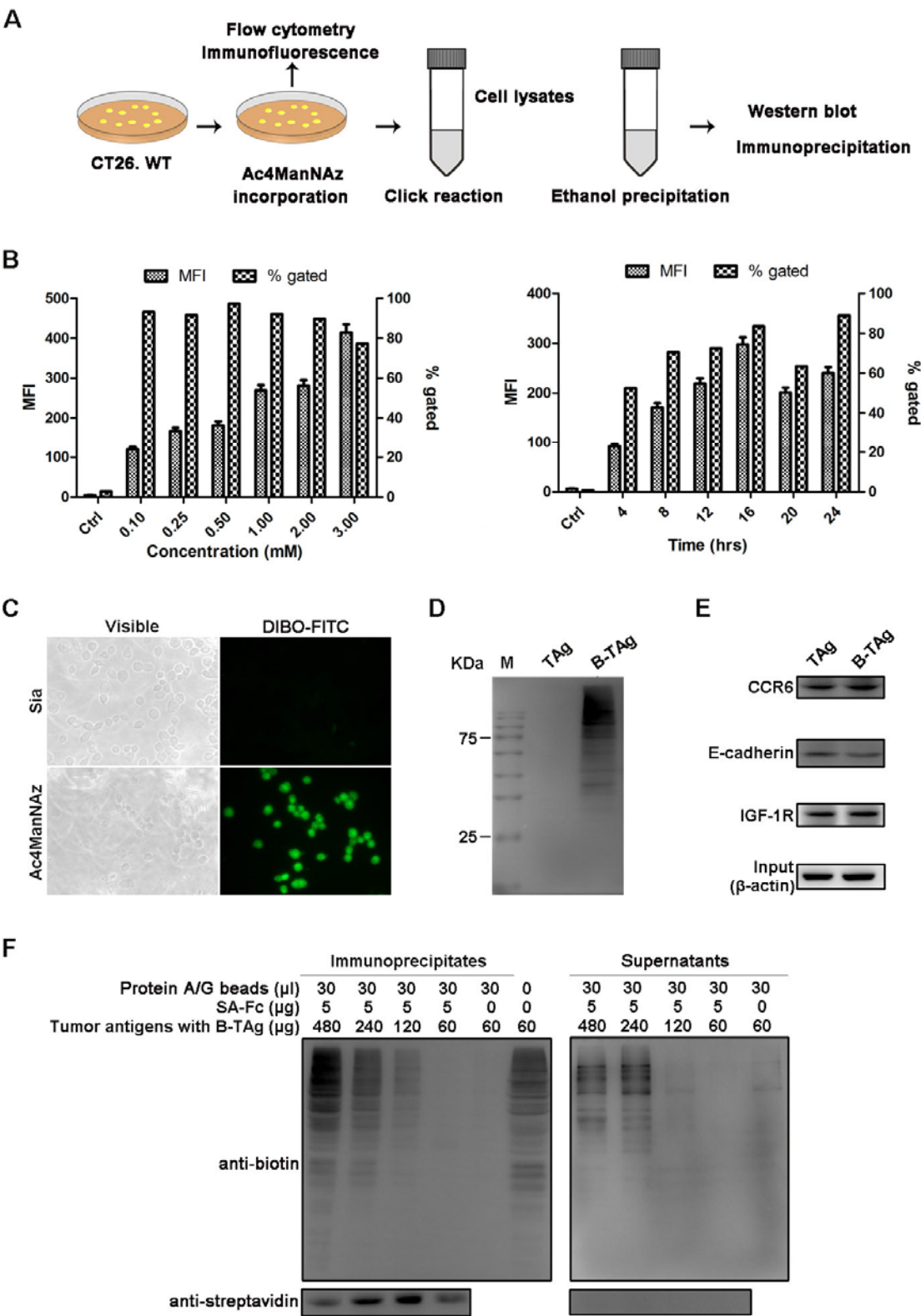




Figure 3.

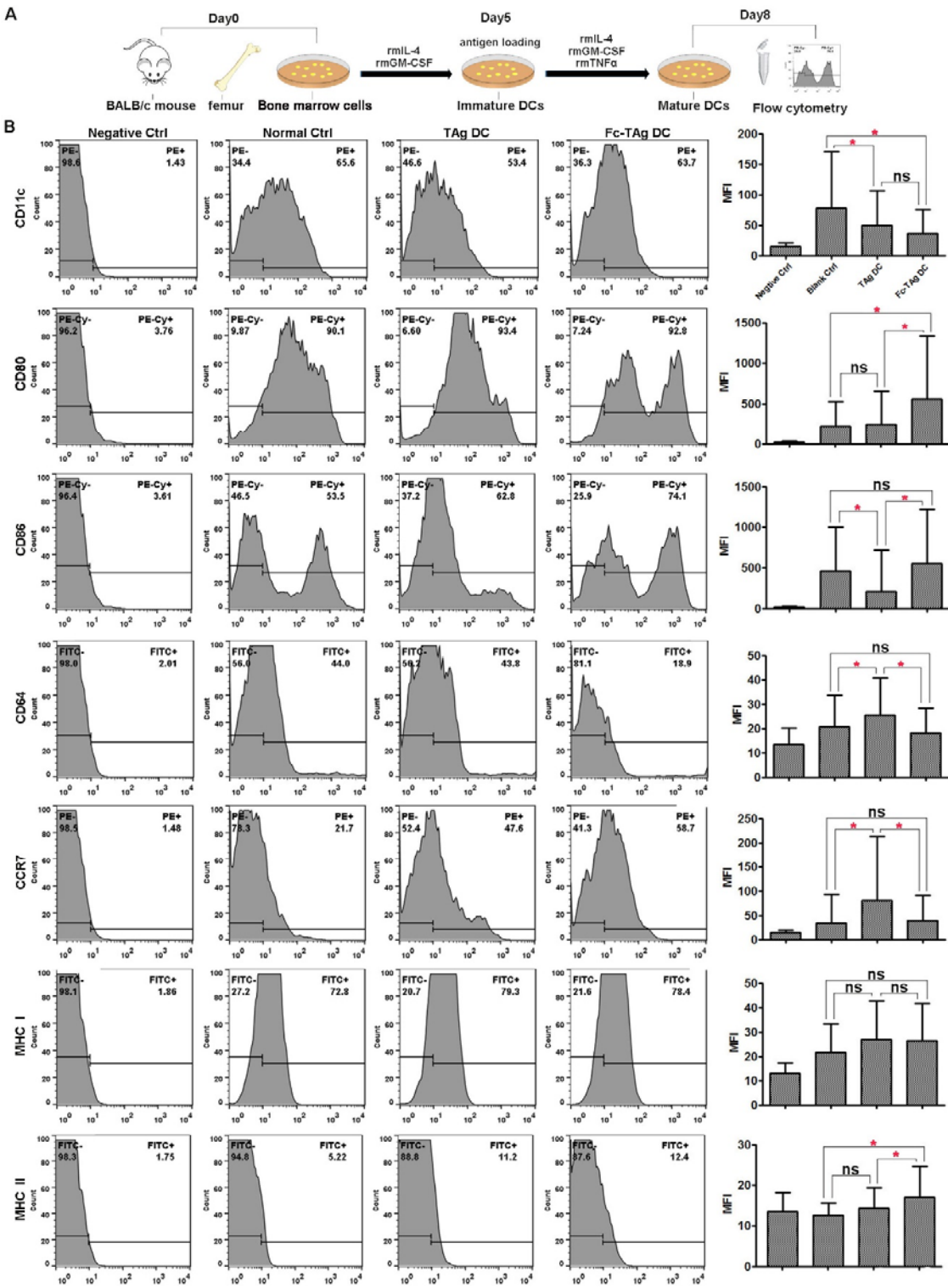
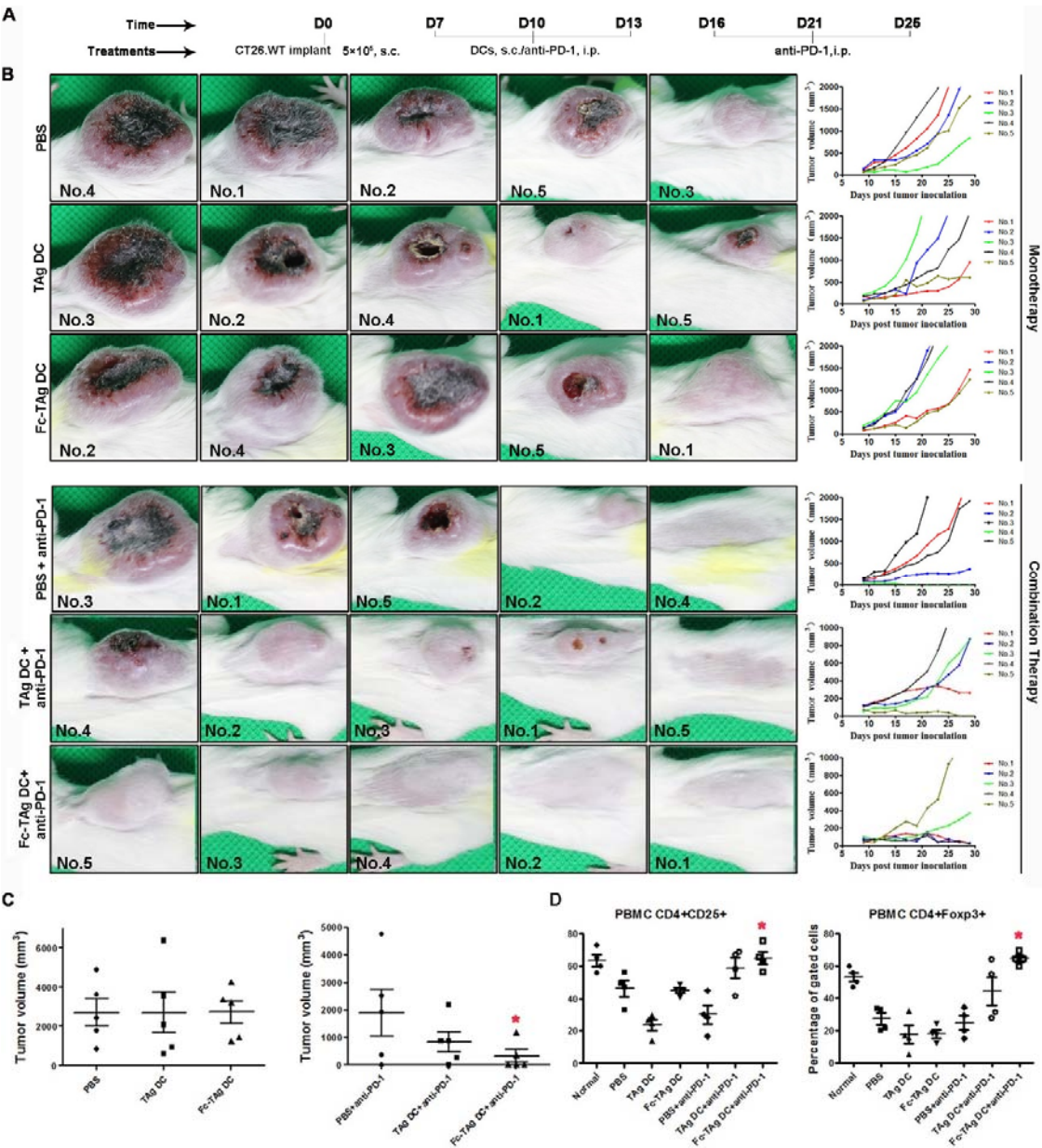


Figure 4.



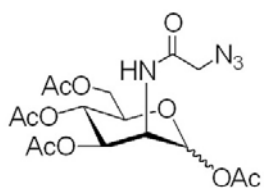
Supplementary Figure S1.

- ATG+ Signal peptide (Interleukin-2 signal peptide)
- Streptavidin
- Linker
- mouse IgG2a Fc+TGA

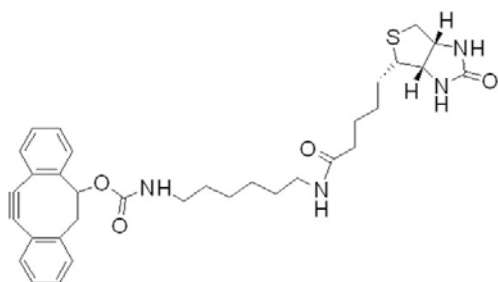
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121	GGCGCCGACG	GCGCCCTGAC	CGGAACCTAC	GAGTCGGCCG	TCGGCAACGC	CGAGAGCCGC
181	TACGTCCTGA	CCGGTCGTTA	CGACAGCGCC	CCGGCCACCG	ACGGCAGCGG	CACCGCCCTC
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421	AAGCCGTCCG	CCGCCTCCAT	CGACGCGGCG	AAGAAGGCCG	GCGTCAACAA	CGGCAACCCG
481	CTCGACGCCG	TTCAGCAGTC	GACCGGGGGC	AGCGGGGGCG	GAGGCAGCGG	CGGGGGCGGA
541	TCCCCAGAG	GGCCCACAAT	CAAGCCCTGT	CCTCCATGCA	AATGCCCAGC	ACCTAACCTC
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661	CTGAGCCCCA	TAGTCACATG	TGTGGTGGTG	GATGTGAGCG	AGGATGACCC	AGATGTCCAG
721	ATCAGCTGGT	TTGTGAACAA	CGTGGAAAGTA	CACACAGCTC	AGACACAAAC	CCATAGAGAG
781	GATTACAACA	GTACTCTCCG	GGTGGTCAGT	GCCCTCCCCA	TCCAGCACCA	GGACTGGATG
841	AGTGGCAAGG	AGTTCAAATG	CAAGGTCAAC	AACAAAGACC	TCCCAGCGCC	CATCGAGAGA
901	ACCATCTCAA	AACCCAAAGG	GTCAGTAAGA	GCTCCACAGG	TATATGTCTT	GCCTCCACCA
961	GAAGAAGAGA	TGACTAAGAA	ACAGGTCACT	CTGACCTGCA	TGGTCACAGA	CTTCATGCCT
1021	GAAGACATTT	ACGTGGAGTG	GACCAACAAC	GGGAAAACAG	AGCTAAACTA	CAAGAACACT
1081	GAACCAGTCC	TGGACTCTGA	TGGTTCTTAC	TTCATGTACA	GCAAGCTGAG	AGTGGAAAAG
1141	AAGAAGTGGG	TGGAAAAGAAA	TAGCTACTCC	TGTTCACTGG	TCCACGAGGG	TCTGCACAAT
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Supplementary Figure S2.

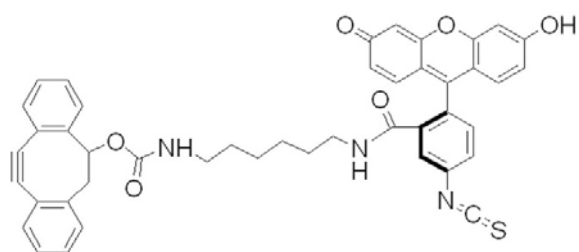
**A**



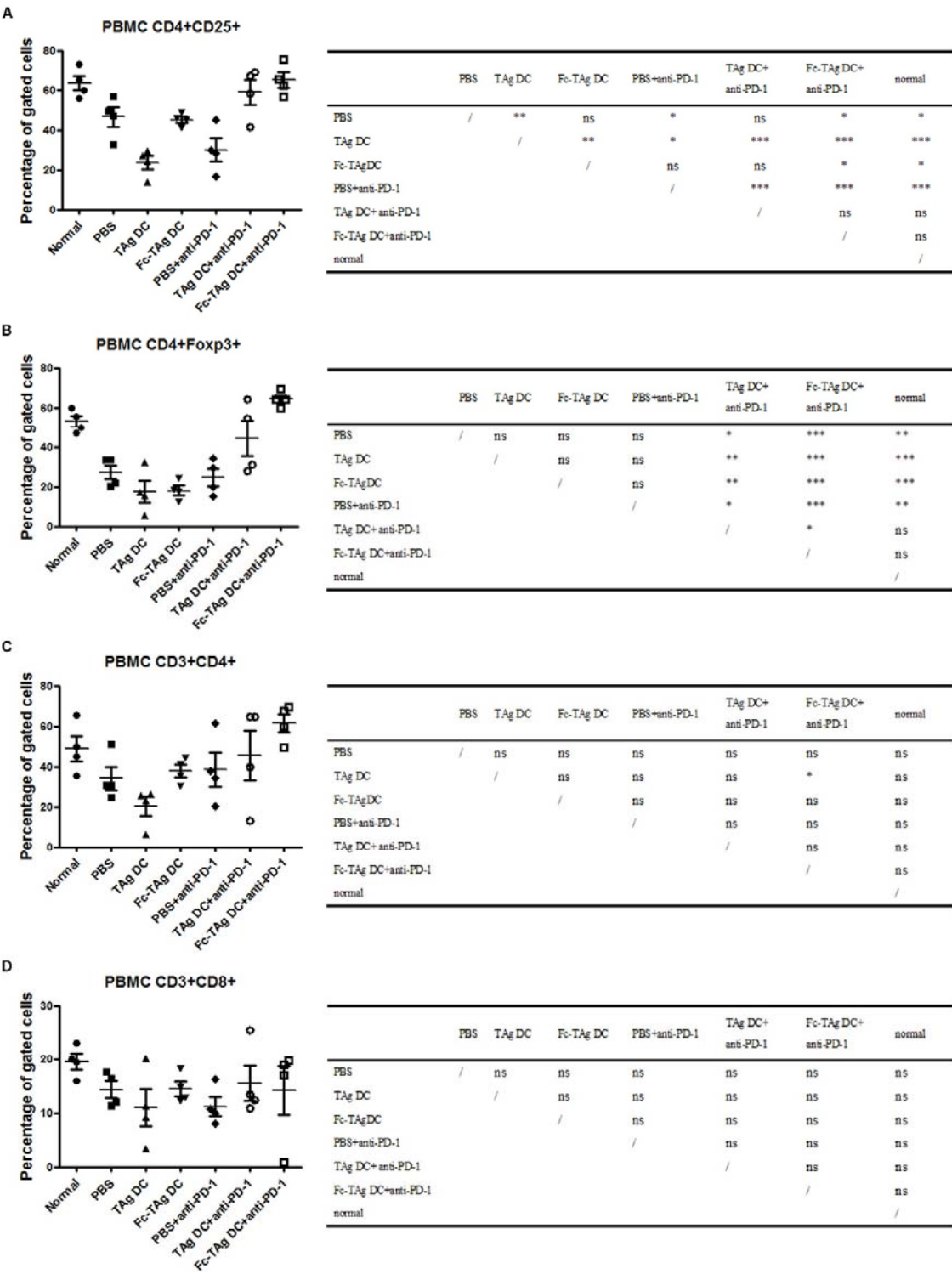
**B**



**C**



Supplementary Figure S3.





Supplementary Figure S4.

